



NEWS RELEASE

WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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J.R. Hunter, Godfather's Pizza, Named Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2008

Casper – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration has named J.R. Hunter, Godfather's Pizza, the Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2008. This award will be presented to him on Monday, May 5, 2008, at the Annual Chamber Dinner to be held at the Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre in Casper. Steve Despain, District Director of the Wyoming Small Business Administration, will be presenting Mr. Hunter with this award. J.R. was nominated by Jennifer L. Hunter, Paralegal for Casper's City Attorney.

This award is given to an individual who serves as a majority owner and operates or bears principal responsibility for operating a small business with a three year track record and who will not have reached the age of 30 by June 1, 2008. Criteria used to evaluate the nominees for this category is evidence of success as measured by sales and profits; increased employment opportunities; development and or utilization of innovative or creative business methods and demonstrated entrepreneurial potential necessary for long-term business success and economic growth.

The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

At the age of 26 J.R. Hunter bought Godfather's Pizza in Casper. Although he had no money and no assets, the lending institution had faith in him and loaned him the money to buy this business. Never having owned a restaurant and managed people, he jumped in with both feet and for the last several years has changed the face of the business in the community and has greatly increased business profits. He is a philanthropist that encourages young people to pursue their dreams and often physically and financially helps them do just that. He hires young people and gives them opportunities that many employers would not allow a young person. J.R. has involved Godfather's Pizza in the community and annually sponsors teams and events involving young people. He has an annual holiday food drive for the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission and sponsors an annual blood drive during the week of Mother's Day where the United Blood Services brings their bus to Godfather's parking lot. When J.R.'s grandmother passed away, he found she was an avid blood donor and a supporter of the Rescue Mission, so he organized Tina's Drive For Life with these two events. There are many more events Godfather's sponsors that attribute to J.R. Hunter caring for his community.

For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-261-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov/wy.

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